



North Dakota

SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress
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March 5, 2025

Subject: Support for HB 1017

Submitted by: Richard Brueckner, President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC)

Dear Chairman Brad Bekkedahl, Vice Chairman Robert Erbele, and Members of the Senate Appropriations-Government Operations Division,

I am writing to urgently request your unanimous support for **HB 1017**, which seeks to allocate funding to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

The introduction and spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) pose one of the most significant and immediate threats to North Dakota's waters. Species such as zebra mussels, Asian carp, and Eurasian watermilfoil are rapidly advancing into our state, endangering water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and the fishing industry that supports local economies. The additional funding in the Governor's budget is critical to creating an effective response to this growing crisis.

Currently, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is tasked with managing the spread of these invasive species, which requires substantial resources. The full funding of this budget is crucial to ensuring that the department can continue its vital work to prevent the further encroachment of these harmful species.

However, given the severity of the threat, I strongly urge you to consider increasing the funding outlined in the Governor's budget. The spread of ANS is not a distant concern—it is a present danger. Invasive species are already encroaching just 30 miles from the North Dakota-Minnesota border, where Minnesota is grappling with an even greater number of ANS invaders. Left unchecked, these species will have a devastating impact on North Dakota's natural resources, recreational opportunities, and the state's economy.

The time to act is now. With your support for HB 1017, we can strengthen efforts to protect our waters from this dire threat and ensure that North Dakota's aquatic ecosystems remain vibrant for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard Brueckner

President, North Dakota Sportfishing Congress

"To Preserve, Promote and Improve the Quality of Sport Fishing in North Dakota."